

# Notes

## NRCS Conservation Program Public Input Session Teleconference

**Teleconference Purpose:** Update NRCS personnel and key partners on NRCS newly developed process for conducting public input sessions across the State.

**Purpose of Input Sessions:** Gather input from key partners and NRCS customers about how and where NRCS should be focusing its natural resource conservation efforts and activities over the next 5 years.

### **Agreed To:**

1. NRCS will host (*along with Conservation Districts in some cases*) a series of 10 workshops across the state as listed above:
2. District Conservationists will take lead in securing a location for the meeting and a facilitator (*PAS will assist if DC's have difficulties securing facilitators*).
3. Upon securing the facilitator, PAS and Assistant for Programs will work with him/her to ensure they clearly understand purpose and desired outcomes of each session.
4. State Conservationist and/or Assistant for Programs will attend each session and provide an overview of the NRCS managed and administer Conservation Programs in the 2008 Farm Bill. (PAS will develop overview presentation).
5. PAS will develop a template PowerPoint that will illustrate the 2002-2008 FB program accomplishments within each watershed. The presentation will be given by the Area Conservationist for Programs or the Area Conservationist.
6. State Program staff will identify natural resource priorities, concerns, causes for those concerns, and need to address the concerns for each watershed. This information will be generated from a variety of sources (e.g. previous State Technical Committee meetings, the NRCS resource survey, local work groups, etc.)
7. Facilitators will share NRCS findings with input session participation and facilitate a session to gather additions and/or comments to NRCS findings. (*PAS will develop a template PowerPoint that illustrates the NRCS findings for use by each facilitator as well develop the worksheets for participants to use during facilitated session.*)
8. Promotional Material provided by PAS includes: Invitation letters for each watershed, postcards, news releases, radio PSA's (prerecorded), Downloadable Radio Interview, and Talking Points.
9. Other State Office material provided includes:
  - a. RWA for each Watershed
  - b. Summary of NRCS resource survey
  - c. Various Watershed maps (handouts and used during various PowerPoint presentations)
  - d. Purpose Poster for meeting

# Public Input Sessions Considerations

## **Invitation:**

- Invitation letter from STC to members of State level representatives on State Tech Committee (encouraging their constituents to participate).
- Template letter for Districts to sign and are recommended to be distributed to traditional and non-traditional natural resource customers and partners (PAS will share the STC mailing list for consideration on the local level).
- NRCS staff needs to be actively engaged (and DCs are welcome to attend).

## **Location of meeting considerations:**

- Need centralized locations, best suited for maximum attendance.
- Need facility best suited for public input session (conference rooms, auditorium, etc) No restaurants please.

## **Facilitators:**

- **These persons need to be identified and confirmed within the next 7-10 business day.**
- State office will work with each facilitator has all necessary materials and to ensure they understand purpose, outcomes, and process for each session.